

THE LAWYER'S LULLABY.

Boston Transcript.
Be still, my child, remain in statu quo.
While I propel thy cradle to and fro.

BAPTIZED BY FIRE.

"That reminds me of an incident," said Uncle Zarah. "That riding master may think he knows it all so far as 'grace' is concerned, though his ideas of grace differ with mine materially; but I'd like to tell him about one woman I have known who had been accustomed to the management of horses in rural parts or on the plains, who had been at home on a horse's back all her life and seldom essayed any gait but a 'galop,' yet who could lay it over any rider in this city for grace."

Uncle paused to polish his glasses, then remarked, interrogatively: "You remember Mrs. —? Her name was Capitola. Did I ever tell you how Cappie won her husband?"

It was an early September morning in the late sixties. The summer rains had made vegetation rank, and the buffalo grass was then thickly matted, brown and dry as powder. The night had been gray and still, and given place to a skylike copper in the morning and a strange stillness brooded in the air.

"I had been giving orders for branding a bunch of steers to send to the lorer range, and as I came up to the porch I discovered Cap in her dingy old riding habit, sitting on the edge swinging her feet and snapping a quirt, her pony browsing just in front of her, and beside her was Henry—the owner of the big 'Home' ranch and her affianced lover. Her bride rein was thrown over his arm, and he was earnestly begging the girl to comply with some request.

"Please, Cappie, yield to me this time." "But I want the gloves and whip." "I'll buy you a gross of silver-mounted whips and a dozen pairs of Jovvin's best; import them especially for the purpose, if you would give up riding at the fair."

"That would be a circumstance, wouldn't it?" flashed Capitola. "I could shake them under Miss Oates' nose and say: 'There! just see what I got for letting you win the prize.' No, Hal, it isn't the gloves or the whip, but a mean little ambition I want to gratify. That woman called me a hoyden, and said I couldn't ride a little bit. I don't mind the hoyden and the heathen. I suppose I am both, but I can ride, and mean to do it."

"Little girl, you hurt me when you talk so thoughtlessly." "And you hurt me cruelly," she cried passionately, as she turned her flashing eyes on him. "I'm ashamed to acknowledge how much, I thought you loved me, but you don't. When you see me beside your mother and your incomparable sisters, and—

and that horrid prim Puritan, Miss Oates, you get ashamed of me and want to make me over by the square and level of your own social world, but you can't do it. I tried to cultivate the little prairie anemones, but they always died. I'll die, too, under the cultivating process. So you—I think you can have your ring back, and with a little sob Capitola began to tug at her gauntlets, but Henry caught her hands.

"My dear little wild bird, I love you. I am twenty years older than you are, but never said that to a woman until I met you. I am graver and quieter than you are, but I like your sunny ways—your bright nature. My mother and sisters do not know you as well as I do, and they want me to marry Miss Oates. They are looking for flaws in my gem, and I don't want them to have a chance to think they have found one. It is such a little thing I have asked you. Your father is away; there is no one to attend you, as you utterly refuse my escort unless I desert my mother and the other ladies, which I cannot do. You—well, you know, little girl, that you are very unconventional in both manners and dress, and I do wish you would try to win them over, child." Henry paused, feeling that he was making a bad matter worse.

"Never!" Cap replied angrily, as she jerked her hands away. "They may take me as I am or not at all. If mamma had lived may be I would have been different—as prunes and prisms as Miss Oates, possibly—but I've only had dad, and he likes me best as I am. I never would have thought of riding at the fair, only when we were all out horseback riding one night after Miss Oates first came she said, purposely for me to hear, that 'sticking on' was not good riding by any means, and made fun of my 'old-fashioned' riding habit." And Cap's tears splashed down on the dingy black calico.

"You are much prettier in it than Miss Oates is in hers," returned Henry warmly. "Oh, yes!" said Cap mockingly, "much prettier; but you don't want to see me match my skill against her grace; but I will; and I will win the whip and gloves, so now!"

"Then we will discuss the matter no further." "Alas, then, senor, until this afternoon, and remember," she called, as she vaulted on Bret's back and turned to go, "after to-day I mean to show that dad has as much money as anybody. I don't care for dress, but if you do you shall be pleased," and with a saucy kiss from her finger tips she rode away.

"I felt sorry for both, but I knew it would come out all right. In his summers on his stock ranch, only two miles away, Henry had seen Capitola grow into a willful, but lovable, girl, and had yielded up all the strength of his great heart to her; but as she was too young to marry he was 'waiting' for her. His mother and sisters had come from the Quaker City to 'inspect' the possible addition to the family, and were horrified at her unconventionalities, particularly her going about by herself. The special grievance was over the county fair.

her head," and Uncle Zarah stopped to chuckle quietly at the remembrance.

"When afternoon came the fair grounds were crowded. Half a dozen young ladies in prim black and blue cloth habits, chimney-pot hats, long gauntlets and veils, which they wore then, were gathered near the judges' stand, and their escorts were chatting with them, waiting the order to clear the ring.

"Where is your Lady Gay, Spunkier, Henry?" asked his sister as he drove up with his mother. Henry frowned slightly, but before he could answer a little buzz of comment called the attention of all as Capitola rode up unattended. She wouldn't even let me ride my old cob beside her, so I was there before her in my buggy.

"Lord, but she was a beauty. Her slender black mare was as mettlesome as could be, and tossed her long mane and tail impudently as she obeyed the little hand, with its touch of velvet and grip of steel. Cap was as slim and willowy as a cottonwood sapling in her close-fitting black velvet habit. She had put up all her curls under a little black velvet hat, around which was a long black ostrich plume.

"Miss Oates looked like a thunder-cloud. She had expected to see the child on her little mustang and in the old black calico habit skirt she usually wore. Henry smiled and went to her instantly with a loving word, and I knew the clouds had disappeared for a time.

"The tournament began; up and down, around this way and back that, under the coppery sky the ladies rode, then paused. The judges were undecided, so they went through the paces again. No decision. The ladies would please change horses.

"Cap was off Rondo in an instant, but many of the ladies demurred. Miss Oates positively refused to mount anything but her own thoroughly trained animal. The contest narrowed to Cap and two other plain-bred girls, but even they dared not mount Rondo. Cap rode each of the six horses in turn. As she changed the seventh and last time to Rondo she rode to me.

"Uncle, don't you smell the prairie fire?" she asked uneasily.

"Yes," I replied; "but it's across the creek; it can't reach us." "I was thinking of the school house," she replied hurriedly as the judges called. "School began in Henry's district yesterday, and his sister let her little daughter go with Rose Williams to-day," and then she rode into the ring.

"I looked at my watch—3:40—then over to the north. The smoke was rolling up black and thick. I could see an eating line of red. The sun was beginning to look like a yellow haze, and the air was dense and heavy with the odor of burned grass. If the winds should rise—just then a puff lifted my hat. Yes, the school house was in great danger if the wind veered a point or two. I heard a shout of pleasure, and turned to see the judge hand a silver-mounted whip to Cap. She turned her head to look at me, and over beyond me saw the clouds of smoke. She brought the whip down on the flanks of the mare, and quivering with fright, Rondo reached me in two leaps.

"The girl school house, gasped Cap, as she pointed with her whip. "To that moment, the prairie fire, so common a thing, had not been noticed. In a moment all was confusion. Miss Oates screamed, Miss Merriam, Henry's sister, fainted and his mother turned white. In an instant Henry was out of the buggy with his hand on Rondo's neck.

"May I take her, Cappie? Nellie is over there." "Cap slid down. The saddle was flung off, and cutting the mare with the silver-mounted handle of the whip Cap thrust in his hand Henry was off, followed by half a dozen mounted men.

"Just then Cap heard a whinner, and a cold nose was thrust against her face. "With a scream of joy she threw her arms about Bret's neck. The faithful little mustang had broken its lariet rope and followed its mistress. Catching the trailing rope, Cap tied it bridle fashion in the halter, then, slipping out of her velvet riding skirt and tearing off her gauntlets, she said to me as she jumped on Bret: 'I know a short cut below the ford; maybe I can help,' and was off.

"I followed in the buggy. Cap reached the schoolhouse. The fire guards were forty feet wide, and the teacher and his pupils had burned the grass about the building and felt safe in the schoolhouse. The teacher said he would not let the children go till all danger was passed.

"Cap asked for Nellie Merriam. "She cried to go home, so I permitted her to do so about 3 o'clock. The teacher told me afterward that he thought he had been struck by lightning when Cap got her breath.

"Idiot!" she blazed, "let a little city-bred six-year-old child go half a mile across the prairie by herself! Why, she isn't tall enough to see over the blue stem in the buffaloes' yellow," and she dashed away.

"At the ranch only the frightened housekeeper appeared. Nellie had not come! Cap rushed in the house and grabbed a handful of matches and a blanket from a pile that was airing on the porch. This she dipped in the watering trough as she flew by; then she jumped on Bret again, with the dripping blanket before her.

"The little mischief has gone down in that ravine where we found the rabbit's nest, and if the wind changes one atom to the northwest we are doomed," was her one thought as she dug her heels in Bret's steaming sides.

"Sure enough, as she neared the bank of the ravine, she saw a head of damp, dark curls, and a little girl came clambering and crying up the steep bank. Cap slid to the ground and gathered the frightened wail in her arms. With all the strength left her she struck Bret a stinging blow. "Go home, if you can," she cried, and the snorting mustang fled before the flames, now hot upon them.

"Cap struck matches and threw it into the ravine. The fire leaped up and ran over the bank towards the creek. Down over the hot embers, hands and feet blistering and the child in her arms screaming in pain. Cap crept, dragging the wet blanket with her. The oncoming flames swept to the edge of the ravine, and hungrily licked up the bits of dry grass left. They singed Cap's hair, and nearly cooked her face. She could barely keep the frantic child under the blanket, and could not save herself.

"The roar and crackle died away toward the creek, the air cooled a little, and then came unconsciousness. And just at dusk we found them. The men had all taken the bridge road, two miles around, but Bret and Cap had gone right down over the rocky hill and across the stream, dangerous to ford at the proper place, doubly dangerous there; but they had dared and won, and were safe.

ing of the child guided us to her. The wet blanket had saved Nellie, but poor Cap was nearly dead. She had lost all her yellow curls. Her face was blistered and her eyes swollen shut. The waist to her now habit was irretrievably ruined and her skirts nearly burned off."

"She was wandering a little in her mind, and when Henry gathered her up in his arms she put her blistered little hands about his neck and said sorrowfully, 'If I'd had a mother maybe I'd be different.'

"Thank God, you are your dear, loving little self," Henry replied, with grave tenderness, as he drew her disfigured face close to his loving heart.

"It was a baptism of fire, but it burned lots of dross out of several natures, and blazed a safe and sure way for two of the best people I ever knew to tread.

"Yes," concluded Uncle Zarah, "I shall always insist that 'knowing how to gallop' was in this instance a very desirable accomplishment, even if not according to the 'English' method."

Had Their Wages Raised. Special Dispatch to the Intelligence. COLUMBUS, July 8.—For some time there has been a growing dissatisfaction among the street car employes of this city, and a strike and consequent tie up seemed almost inevitable. Today the directors met and street car men from conductors to stablemen have received an increase in wages.

A meeting of workmen has been called for to-morrow evening in the state house yard to take action regarding the Homestead trouble.

Explosion at Fostoria. FOSTORIA, July 8.—Last night a dynamo in the Fostoria light and power works exploded with a terrific force. The fly wheel on the engine was dismantled a second later and smashed to atoms. The flying pieces crashed through the wooden ceiling in several places, tearing great holes in the roof. The engineer, Paul Hyder, was instantly killed, his skull being crushed, both legs broken and one arm nearly torn from his body.

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This following, clipped from the Burlington Junction (Mo.) Post, contains information of no little value to persons troubled with indigestion: For years the editor of the Post has been subject to cramp colic or fits of indigestion, that prostrated him for several hours and unfitted him for business for two or three days afterward. About a year ago we called on S. J. Butcher, druggist, and asked for something to ward off an attack that was already making life hideous. Mr. Butcher handed us a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. We took the medicine according to directions, and not only found relief on that occasion, but have several times since tried its virtues and found relief in every instance. We take this method of acknowledging the benefits derived and recommending the cure to all others subject to indigestion. For sale by druggists. DAW

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